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Statement submitted by International Fertilizer Industry Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

Food and nutrition security should be a stand-alone, bold and prominent goal in the post-2015 development agenda. The target of halving extreme poverty rates by 2015 compared with 1990 levels has been met. However, halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger will not be achieved. The new sustainable development goal should therefore be to eliminate hunger. Much of the food we eat today (and more of the food that will be needed in the future) is and will be produced through the use of mineral fertilizers. The countries with the lowest levels of mineral fertilizer use also have the lowest levels of agricultural productivity and the highest levels of hunger. In addition, enhancing fertilizers with micronutrients is an innovative strategy to help eliminate micronutrient deficiencies around the world, leading to the eradication of malnutrition. Empowering farmers, particularly women farmers, in all regions to produce more with less can raise productivity dramatically. The combination of quality inputs and good agricultural practices can increase yields up to three times.

The following are recommendations for the post-2015 agenda:

(a) Increase food production and improving diets. Not only are food and nutrition security measurable in terms of hunger; they also have long-term implications for a country's well-being;

(b) Invest in agriculture. Investments in agriculture, particularly agricultural research and development, have been demonstrated to be one of the best strategies for promoting overall poverty alleviation and economic development by increasing agricultural productivity and rural incomes;

(c) Sustainably increase food production and build sustainable food systems. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to achieve the goals of sustainable intensification in a wide range of landscapes and agroecological zones. A mosaic of solutions will be required to improve the way farmers operate. However, farmers cannot do without fertilizers because they contribute to biodiversity conservation by increasing yields on existing arable land;

(d) Focus on smallholders, women farmers and the most vulnerable. Agricultural programmes are needed that are farmer-centred and knowledge-based, so that the full potential of commercial and smallholder farmers, both men and women, can be harnessed. By increasing women farmers' access to productive resources, food and nutrition security could be increased globally by up to 4 per cent per year;

(e) Build a conducive business environment, including good governance and investment in food systems. Such an environment also includes well-functioning institutions (notably to protect intellectual property and land rights) and mechanisms to fight corruption and bribery;

(f) Establish inclusive business models as sustainable business solutions. The post-2015 development process should engage the private sector as an equal partner and stakeholder in the agenda for food security and sustainable agriculture and in further partnerships to scale up good practices.

The International Fertilizer Industry Association recommends the adoption of two goals for agriculture, food and nutrition security:

(a) Eradicating hunger and malnutrition;

(b) Adopting sustainable agricultural practices.